



**For Release: Thursday, February 05, 2015**

**15-205-SAN**

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## **County Employment and Wages in Alaska – Second Quarter 2014**

Employment was relatively unchanged (-0.1 percent) in Alaska's only large county, Anchorage Borough, from June 2013 to June 2014, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. (Large counties are defined as those with employment of 75,000 or more as measured by 2013 annual average employment.) Regional Commissioner Richard J. Holden noted that in June 2014, Anchorage Borough's employment totaled 155,100 and accounted for 45.0 percent of total employment within the state.

Nationally, employment increased 2.0 percent from June 2013 to June 2014 as 305 of the 339 largest U.S. counties gained jobs. Weld, Colo., had the largest percentage increase over the year (8.9 percent). Atlantic, N.J., had the largest over-the-year decrease (-1.6 percent).

The average weekly wage in Anchorage Borough was \$1,056 in the second quarter of 2014, an increase of 4.9 percent from the second quarter of 2013. Nationally, the average weekly wage rose 2.1 percent over the year to \$940 in the second quarter of 2014. (See [table 1.](#))

Employment and wage levels (but not over-the-year changes) are also available for the 28 boroughs in Alaska with employment below 75,000. Average weekly wages in these counties ranged from \$1,879 to \$517 during the second quarter of 2014. (See [table 2.](#))

### **Large county wage changes**

Anchorage Borough's 4.9-percent wage gain placed 14<sup>th</sup> among the nation's 339 large counties. (See [table 1.](#)) Nationally, 312 large counties registered over-the-year increases in average weekly wages in the second quarter of 2014. Midland, Texas, ranked first with an increase of 9.0 percent. Douglas, Colo., ranked second with a gain of 8.8 percent, followed by the counties of Hillsborough, N.H. (7.4 percent), Collier, Fla. (6.8 percent), and San Mateo, Calif. (6.6 percent).

Among the 339 largest counties, 22 experienced over-the-year decreases in average weekly wages. Williamson, Texas, had the largest decrease (-2.7 percent). Westchester, N.Y., had the second largest wage decline (-1.6 percent), followed by Lake, Ind. (-1.4 percent); Bibb, Ga. (-1.3 percent); and Washington, D.C., and Chittenden, Vt. (-1.1 percent).

### **Large county average weekly wages**

Anchorage Borough's \$1,056 average weekly wage placed in the top 20 percent in the nation, ranking 55<sup>th</sup> in the second quarter of 2014. Average weekly wages were higher than the national average in 109 of the 339 largest U.S. counties. Santa Clara, Calif., held the top position with an average weekly wage of \$1,886. San Mateo, Calif., was second at \$1,740, followed by New York N.Y. (\$1,732), and San Francisco Calif. (\$1,593).

Two-thirds of the largest U.S. counties (230) reported average weekly wages below the national average in the second quarter of 2014. The lowest wage was reported in Horry, S.C. (\$548), followed by the Texas counties of Cameron (\$585) and Hidalgo (\$608). Wages in these lowest-ranked counties were less than one-third of the average weekly wage reported for the highest-ranked county, Santa Clara, Calif. (\$1,886).

### **Average weekly wages in Alaska's smaller counties**

Alaska consists of 16 smaller boroughs, 11 census areas, and 1 municipality, each of which is considered a county level equivalent. Twenty-two of the 28 counties in Alaska with employment below 75,000 had average weekly wages lower than the national average of \$940. The exceptions were North Slope Borough (\$1,879), Northwest Arctic Borough (\$1,244), Southeast Fairbanks Census Area (\$1,229), Juneau Borough (\$1,008), Fairbanks North Star Borough (\$990), and Valdez-Cordova Census Area (\$957). The Wade Hampton Census Area reported the lowest weekly wage among the smaller counties, averaging \$517. (See [table 2.](#))

When all 29 counties in Alaska were considered, 5 had wages below \$700. Eleven counties had average weekly wages ranging from \$700 to \$799, 5 had wages from \$800 to \$899, and 8 had wages above \$900. (See [chart 1.](#))

### **Additional statistics and other information**

QCEW data for states have been included in this release in [table 3](#). For additional information about quarterly employment and wages data, please read the [Technical Note](#) or visit [www.bls.gov/cew](http://www.bls.gov/cew).

*Employment and Wages Annual Averages Online* features comprehensive information by detailed industry on establishments, employment, and wages for the nation and all states. The 2013 edition of this publication, which was published in September 2014, contains selected data produced by Business Employment Dynamics (BED) on job gains and losses, as well as selected data from the first quarter 2014 version of the national news release. Tables and additional content from *Employment and Wages Annual Averages 2013* are now available online at <https://www.bls.gov/cew/cewbultn13.htm>. The 2014 edition of *Employment and Wages Annual Averages Online* will be available in September 2015.

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**The County Employment and Wages release for first quarter 2014 is scheduled to be released on Thursday, March 19, 2015.**

### **Technical Note**

Average weekly wage data by county are compiled under the Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW) program, also known as the ES-202 program. The data are derived from summaries of employment and total pay of workers covered by state and federal unemployment insurance (UI) legislation and provided by State Workforce Agencies (SWAs). The 9.4 million employer reports cover 137.8 million full- and part-time workers. The average weekly wage values are calculated by dividing quarterly total wages by the average of the three monthly employment levels of those covered by UI programs. The result is then divided by 13, the number of weeks in a quarter. It is to be noted, therefore, that over-the-year wage changes for geographic areas may reflect shifts in the composition of employment by industry, occupation, and such other factors as hours of work. Thus, wages may vary among counties, metropolitan areas, or states for reasons other than changes in the average wage level. Data for all states, Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSAs), counties, and the nation are available on the BLS Web site at [www.bls.gov/cew/](http://www.bls.gov/cew/); however, data in QCEW press releases have been revised and may not match the data contained on the Bureau's Web site.

QCEW data are not designed as a time series. QCEW data are simply the sums of individual establishment records reflecting the number of establishments that exist in a county or industry at a point in time. Establishments can move in or out of a county or industry for a number of reasons—some reflecting economic events, others reflecting administrative changes.

The preliminary QCEW data presented in this release may differ from data released by the individual states as well as from the data presented on the BLS Web site. These potential differences result from the states' continuing receipt, review and editing of UI data over time. On the other hand, differences between data in this release and the data found on the BLS Web site are the result of adjustments made to improve over-the-year comparisons. Specifically, these adjustments account for administrative (noneconomic) changes such as a correction to a previously reported location or industry classification. Adjusting for these administrative changes allows users to more accurately assess changes of an economic nature (such as a firm moving from one county to another or changing its primary economic activity) over a 12-month period. Currently, adjusted data are available only from BLS press releases.

Information in this release will be made available to sensory impaired individuals upon request. Voice phone: (202) 691-5200; Federal Relay Service: (800) 877-8339.

**Table 1. Covered employment and wages in the United States and the largest county in Alaska, second quarter 2014**

Area	Employment			Average Weekly Wage <sup>(1)</sup>			
	June 2014 (thousands)	Percent change, June 2013-14 <sup>(2)</sup>	National ranking by percent change <sup>(3)</sup>	Average weekly wage	National ranking by level <sup>(3)</sup>	Percent change, second quarter 2013-14 <sup>(2)</sup>	National ranking by percent change <sup>(3)</sup>
United States <sup>(4)</sup> .....	137,776.4	2.0	--	\$940	--	2.1	--
Alaska.....	344.9	0.5	--	1,014	8	4.6	2
Anchorage Borough, Alaska.....	155.1	-0.1	311	1,056	55	4.9	14

Footnotes:

(1) Average weekly wages were calculated using unrounded data.

(2) Percent changes were computed from quarterly employment and pay data adjusted for noneconomic county reclassifications.

(3) Ranking does not include data for Puerto Rico or the Virgin Islands.

(4) Totals for the United States do not include data for Puerto Rico or the Virgin Islands.

Note: Data are preliminary. Covered employment and wages includes workers covered by Unemployment Insurance (UI) and Unemployment Compensation for Federal Employees (UCFE) programs.

**Table 2. Covered employment and wages in the United States and all counties in Alaska, second quarter 2014**

Area	Employment June 2014	Average Weekly Wage <sup>(1)</sup>
United States <sup>(2)</sup> .....	137,776,364	\$940
Alaska.....	344,928	1,014
Aleutian East Borough.....	1,816	612
Aleutian West Census Area.....	3,870	849
Anchorage Borough.....	155,060	1,056
Bethel Census Area.....	7,256	775
Bristol Bay Borough.....	3,116	700
Denali Borough.....	3,649	732
Dillingham Census Area.....	3,330	760
Fairbanks North Star Borough.....	36,975	990
Haines Borough.....	1,052	648
Hoonah-Angoon Census Area.....	978	619
Juneau Borough.....	18,406	1,008
Kenai Peninsula Borough.....	22,513	895
Ketchikan Gateway Borough.....	8,138	829
Kodiak Island Borough.....	6,530	817
Lake and Peninsula Borough.....	977	711
Mantanuska-Susitna Borough.....	22,895	790
Nome Census Area.....	3,834	918
North Slope Borough.....	15,474	1,879
Northwest Arctic Borough.....	2,939	1,244
Petersburg Census Area.....	1,395	747
Prince of Wales-Hyder Census Area.....	2,166	759
Sitka Borough.....	4,875	887
Skagway Municipality.....	1,446	681
Southeast Fairbanks Census Area.....	2,534	1,229
Valdez-Cordova Census Area.....	5,840	957
Wade Hampton Census Area.....	2,391	517
Wrangell City and Borough.....	911	785
Yakutat Borough.....	329	740
Yukon-Koyukuk Census Area.....	2,351	739

## Footnotes:

(1) Average weekly wages were calculated using unrounded data.

(2) Totals for the United States do not include data for Puerto Rico or the Virgin Islands.

Note: Includes workers covered by Unemployment Insurance (UI) and Unemployment Compensation for Federal Employees (UCFE) programs. Data are preliminary.

**Table 3. Covered employment and wages by state, second quarter 2014**

State	Employment		Average weekly wage <sup>(1)</sup>			
	June 2014 (thousands)	Percent change, June 2013-14	Average weekly wage	National ranking by level	Percent change, second quarter 2013-14	National ranking by percent change
United States <sup>(2)</sup> .....	137,776.4	2.0	\$940	--	2.1	--
Alabama .....	1,872.9	0.7	806	36	1.6	38
Alaska .....	344.9	0.5	1,014	8	4.6	2
Arizona .....	2,486.0	1.9	888	21	1.3	43
Arkansas .....	1,168.1	1.5	745	47	1.5	41
California .....	15,905.6	2.8	1,072	6	2.4	15
Colorado .....	2,439.3	3.4	960	14	2.9	8
Connecticut .....	1,676.6	0.6	1,155	3	2.5	13
Delaware .....	429.0	2.5	976	11	1.2	44
District of Columbia .....	732.6	1.0	1,569	1	-0.5	51
Florida .....	7,628.6	3.1	839	28	2.1	23
Georgia .....	4,036.3	3.1	882	22	1.7	35
Hawaii .....	624.6	1.1	845	26	2.7	10
Idaho .....	659.2	2.5	697	51	2.2	22
Illinois .....	5,836.9	1.5	988	10	1.9	32
Indiana .....	2,916.9	1.8	784	42	1.2	44
Iowa .....	1,547.8	1.6	780	43	3.0	7
Kansas .....	1,372.8	1.7	797	38	2.3	20
Kentucky .....	1,820.8	1.7	798	37	2.0	27
Louisiana .....	1,921.6	1.4	843	27	2.4	15
Maine .....	610.4	0.8	746	46	2.1	23
Maryland .....	2,594.4	0.9	1,020	7	1.6	38
Massachusetts .....	3,407.0	1.4	1,158	2	2.4	15
Michigan .....	4,164.7	2.3	897	20	2.3	20
Minnesota .....	2,782.0	1.3	947	16	1.9	32
Mississippi .....	1,101.1	0.5	705	50	2.0	27
Missouri .....	2,703.2	1.3	818	31	1.9	32
Montana .....	453.4	1.1	734	48	2.4	15
Nebraska .....	956.2	1.4	756	45	2.7	10
Nevada .....	1,210.1	3.4	833	30	0.6	50
New Hampshire .....	637.2	1.2	955	15	4.3	3
New Jersey .....	3,944.8	0.8	1,097	5	1.2	44
New Mexico .....	801.0	0.6	794	40	1.7	35
New York .....	8,965.2	1.8	1,146	4	2.4	15
North Carolina .....	4,080.7	2.4	818	31	1.2	44
North Dakota .....	453.0	4.4	936	17	5.5	1
Ohio .....	5,233.8	1.4	846	25	2.1	23
Oklahoma .....	1,578.0	1.0	816	33	2.6	12
Oregon .....	1,748.4	2.4	874	23	2.9	8
Pennsylvania .....	5,719.8	1.0	933	18	1.6	38
Rhode Island .....	472.9	1.6	898	19	2.0	27
South Carolina .....	1,916.4	2.7	765	44	2.5	13
South Dakota .....	422.9	1.4	712	49	3.3	4
Tennessee .....	2,755.7	1.8	836	29	2.0	27
Texas .....	11,402.8	3.0	973	13	3.1	5
Utah .....	1,297.5	2.9	796	39	1.7	35
Vermont .....	307.0	1.0	813	35	0.7	49
Virginia .....	3,710.8	0.7	976	11	0.8	48
Washington .....	3,109.6	3.2	990	9	2.1	23
West Virginia .....	711.3	-0.3	792	41	1.4	42
Wisconsin .....	2,809.1	1.3	816	33	2.0	27
Wyoming .....	295.3	1.6	871	24	3.1	5
Puerto Rico .....	897.0	-2.0	504	(3)	0.6	(3)

Note: See footnotes at end of table.

**Table 3. Covered employment and wages by state, second quarter 2014 - Continued**

State	Employment		Average weekly wage <sup>(1)</sup>			
	June 2014 (thousands)	Percent change, June 2013-14	Average weekly wage	National ranking by level	Percent change, second quarter 2013-14	National ranking by percent change
Virgin Islands .....	37.8	-2.2	728	(3)	2.8	(3)

## Footnotes:

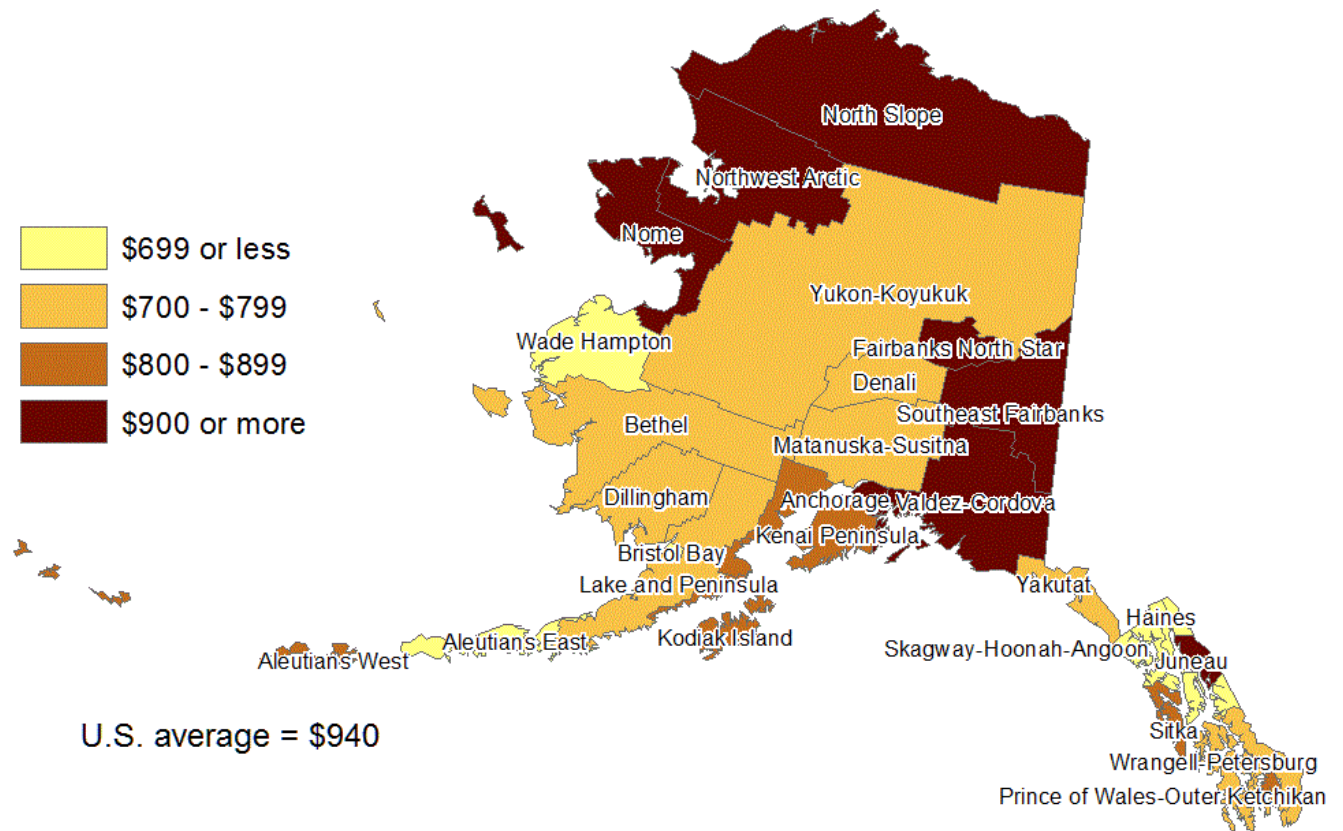
(1) Average weekly wages were calculated using unrounded data.

(2) Totals for the United States do not include data for Puerto Rico or the Virgin Islands.

(3) Data not included in the national ranking.

Note: Data are preliminary. Covered employment and wages includes workers covered by Unemployment Insurance (UI) and Unemployment Compensation for Federal Employees (UCFE) programs.

**Chart 1. Average weekly wages in Alaska, second quarter 2014**



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.